

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000  
202/463-5310

July 24, 2013

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, thanks you for reintroducing S. 1257, the "Protect American Investments Act of 2013," which would protect securities transactions in the United States from enforcement of certain excise taxes imposed by any foreign government.

S. 1257 would address problems presented by France's recent introduction of a tax on financial transactions. The French Financial Transaction Tax (FFTT) includes a tax on American Depository Receipts (ADRs), securities of French companies, sold and traded in the United States. The Kennedy-Johnson Administration repealed the American version of the financial transaction tax in the 1960's because it made U.S. capital markets inefficient. With approximately 20 million ADRs of French companies traded in the United States annually, the extra-territorial application of this tax will similarly harm the efficiency of American capital markets, reducing options for investors.

In addition to disrupting efficiency of U.S. capital markets, the ill-defined record keeping and collection requirements the FFTT places on U.S. broker-dealers will raise costs that will be borne by all investors. Furthermore, the FFTT creates a dangerous precedent that may harm global capital markets that have allowed businesses to grow and engage in overseas trading on an unprecedented scale.

The Chamber strongly supports S. 1257 and looks forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten", written in a cursive style.

R. Bruce Josten